



University Library newly-completed 220.25

c.77.81 : University Library

1899 10 30

Some time ago the University gave notice that they would petition the High Court to divert a sum, derived from Wort's Charity, used for the purpose of repairing the main road from Emmanuel College to the Gog Magog Hills from that channel and appropriate it for the funds of the University Library. Two public bodies, the County Council and Chesterton R.D.C. are responsible for the repair of this road and resolved to oppose the petition which would deprive them of an annual contribution from the charity

1900

1904 05 19

Cambridge Fire Brigade committee reported on the provision for extinguishing fires in large buildings and the cost of maintenance of a steam fire engine. They visited the University Library where regular fire brigade drills took place regularly, but there was no special provision for the escape of work people from business premises except in one instance where a canvas shoot had been obtained. A fire engine would cost less than £200 a year, which was less than that paid for the police imported on the occasion of the King's visit to keep order for a single night. But there was not space at the fire station to accommodate it and most of the large buildings were protected by means of private fire appliances

1908 08 25

An object of great curiosity has been returned to St Bene't's Church. The Black Letter Bible presented by Hobson the carrier has been missing for the last 30 years. It was discovered in the University Library where it had been sent for safe keeping when the church was restored. It has marginal notes in the writing of the donor and was at one time in a house in the parish when a charge of sixpence was made for its inspection. CWN 08 08 28 p5

1910

1910 12 02

The late John Willis Clark has willed to the University Library all his books, pamphlets, manuscripts and collection of views relating to the town, county, colleges or university of Cambridge. – 10 12 02f

1913 06 20

Suffrage attack St John's college library 13 06 20 p8 CIP

1916 09 27

Exemption tribunal – includes: conscientious objectors; Palmer, hatter, Petty Cury; Stockbridge, antique dealer; Ellis Merry, mail contractor; University Library assistant in charge of periodicals and binding – still obtained from Germany - 16 09 27b

1917 01 10

Tribunal; includes: University Farm employees; County land agent; University library assistant; slaughter men; 17 01 10b

1920

1923 09 21

By the death of its librarian, Mr F. H. Jenkinson, the university loses one who has served it with great distinction for many years. He was a man of remarkable and attractive personality. But possibly what most people will recall were his remarks on the care of books. He told a Library Association conference that it seemed incredible that educated men would send packages of six books by parcel post wrapped in one thickness of indifferent paper and held together with string. Strapping books on bicycles was another deleterious practice. "Perhaps some of us care too much for books, but most people care much too little," he said 23 09 21

1928 04 14

'The Times' has published a picture of the proposed new Cambridge University Library from the provisional designs prepared by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott. For some years past the imperative need of additional rooms to accommodate the never-ending increase of books has been urged but the enormous cost of erecting an entirely new library on another site – the old playing field of King's and Clare Colleges - presented what seemed an insurmountable difficulty. Even if the proposed scheme is realised it provides for only one-half of the projected library and involves a debt which will not be cleared for 50 years 28 04 16

1928 10 01

Conditions at the University Library have become more and more serious and in 1924 a Syndicate recommended a new library on a new site. Land was bought and plans prepared by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, estimated at £500,000. But it was possible for them to finance only half that amount. Now an offer has been received from the Rockefeller Foundation of a sum to enable the building of the complete library without delay. 28 10 10

1928 10 06

New University Library, p8

1930

1934 06 01

The great move has begun. At four o'clock the doors of the old University Library near the Senate House closed to readers. There had been many visitors all day to say farewell to the building and some tender-hearted ladies left the library in tears before the bell rang for the last time. Librarians have been packing volumes into boxes and Eaden Lilley's staff began the work of loading the horse-drawn carts for the journey to the new library in West Road. The process will go on day after day for about three months. 34 06 01

1934 09 06

University Library big move – 34 09 06

1934 09 22

Cambridge Rotary Club did a good piece of work when it undertook the organisation of the public visits to the old University Library. During the first three afternoons close on 3,000 people made the tour of inspection of these old buildings, previously closed to all but a favoured few. It appealed to all classes – old and young, tradespeople and artisans, clerks from University offices and school children. The old Pebble Court, the original centre of the University, was a special source of attraction and here Mr P.C. Fitzgerald fascinated continuous groups by his characteristic talks 34 09 22

1934 10 22

Thousands greeted the King and Queen when they made their way to the new University Library. Washing and cooking alike was forgotten in hundreds of homes as women formed a great part of the crowds which were thickest in Trinity Street where undergraduates in cap and gown added to the number. Of all the wonderful products of man's skill in art and labour the Library must rank of one of the most inspiring and peculiarly permanent of our national institutions and with while clouds scudding over its lofty tower this unique building occupied the centre of a delightful scene. An exceptionally good film of the visit, taken by Gaumont especially for the Victoria Cinema will be shown next week. 34 10 22 & 25

1960s The Cambridgeshire Collection has newspaper cuttings files from this date

1960

1966 03 18

University Library – feature – 66 03 18a

1967 03 01

Concern that city archives are kept under proper control. Some are University Library, some in University Registry and some in the City Library. Appointment of city archivist to be considered. Would like someone lent by Fitzwilliam Museum or University Library to put matters in order. – 67 03 01a

1970

1971 04 06

University Library faces crisis due static staff while work increases – 71 04 06a

1971 04 30

Trinity College Wren Library to reopen after restoration – 71 04 30

1973 05 11

Cambridge college libraries, which are of fundamental importance to undergraduates, have strikingly small staffs, states a report published this week. It says "No fewer than nine college libraries, including two large ones, have no full-time staff. They have well under half the ratio of staff to books found necessary for the efficient administration of departmental libraries". In the present year, it is estimated that the University will give college libraries a total of £12,000 73 05 11

1978 06 21

Cambridge University Library tower, the last great challenge to the student night climbing fraternity, has been scaled. Two men took just four hours and 15 minutes to climb to the base of the flagpole and attributed their success to the unsuccessful attempts of others during the past twelve months who left bolts attached to the brickwork for safety purposes. It is without doubt the most difficult and dangerous building to climb. On the ascent they caused damage to a small window on the top of the

tower. "This was completely unintentional and very much regretted. We have already sent off money to pay for the damage", one student said.

1980

1980 01 18

University Library friends, p16

1982 02 18

University Library, p7

1989 03 21

Libraries of the Future conference envisages co-operation between county and university libraries –
89 03 21a